

Riding the storm out

Audiovisual specialist has an electric passion for catching the perfect storm



Mr. Ed Aspera has been chasing storms since 1986. He has chased them from the west coast to the east coast.



U.S. Air Force photo by Ms. Sue Sapp
Mr. Aspera drives an SUV and uses a portable scanner, a Global Positioning System, maps, a compass and camera equipment when chasing storms.



Twentynine Palms, Calif.



Twentynine Palms, Calif.



Americus, Ga.

By Mr. Geoff Janes
geoff.janes@robins.af.mil

Some folks might say that Mr. Edward Aspera Jr. doesn't have the common sense to come in from the rain. But he'll tell you he doesn't mind. When you're a storm chaser and your passion for photographing Mother Nature's fury takes you all over the country in an SUV loaded down with camera equipment, a portable weather radio and steely nerves, it just goes with the territory. Regardless how wet that territory may be.

Mr. Aspera, 47, has been chasing storms since 1986 when he was serving with the Marines in Twentynine Palms, Calif.

"I've just always been interested in storms," the audiovisual specialist with the 78th Air Base Wing here said. "There's just something about a good storm that gets my adrenaline flowing."

It was an easy transition for Mr. Aspera to go from his job as a combat photographer in the Marine Corps to taking photos of lightning. The subject matter could be just as deadly.

As a Marine, he was tasked with shooting photos of every weapon system in the Marine Corps inventory - and in many cases he was required to take stop action photographs of munitions in mid-launch.

"Sometimes I had to photograph the weapons from the front sight angle," he said. "To do that, basically I had to set the equipment up in front of where the weapon was being fired."

But, according to Mr. Aspera, there was a lot of down time and that's when he started becoming interested in the storms rolling across the Texas plains from 50 miles away. He turned his lens toward the sky, and a passion was born.

He constantly increases his knowledge of storms by reading as much as he can, watching the weather channel and surfing the Internet. But, most of his knowledge has come from the greatest teacher of all - experience.

And to this day, 18 years later, he'll tell you he's still learning. He has honed his skill mostly by using different documentation techniques; it's all trial and error. But he says it's also intuition.

"It's kind of like you get where you can feel it in the air when a storm is coming," he said.

And when they do, it doesn't matter what time of the day or night, Mr. Aspera will chase a storm 100 miles to get the perfect photograph.

"Yeah, there have been times when I've gotten up in the middle of the night to the sound of thunder, and the first thing I'll do is turn on the weather channel," he said. "I've loaded up the car, and chased a storm all the way from Warner Robins to the Alabama border."

Mr. Aspera said working in teams is the safest way when it comes to catching the perfect storm.

"While I'm concentrating on taking pictures, the other person is paying attention to the global positioning system, listening to the weather and making sure the storm isn't getting too close," he said.

The father of two said that although he tries to operate as safely as possible there have been times when he has gotten a little too close for comfort.

"There was once - here in Georgia - where I was waiting and waiting. And then when the lightning finally struck, I watched it go across the sky above me," he said. "I was at the wrong place at the right time; it was too loud and too close. I knew it was time to move. There's nothing worse than standing out in that environment with a metal tripod and lightning is going off."

Although some may think chasing storms is about getting right in the middle of it, Mr. Aspera said that it's safest to be a good distance behind or ahead of it.

"You don't want to be trapped right in the middle of the storm," he said. "The idea is to capture the storm on film, not become a victim. Nobody wants to be a human lightning rod."

Mr. Lans Rothfusz, meteorologist in charge with the National Weather Service in Peachtree City, Ga., said it's not the safest of hobbies and the NWS doesn't recommend it.

"It's no different than going scuba diving with sharks," he said. "If you don't know how storms work, it can be dangerous. Now if someone has been doing it for years, and understands weather, that's one thing. But, most storm chasers are meteorologists."

"So, why do I do it?" Mr. Aspera said. "I do it to educate people - mainly school-aged children. The idea is that through my photography I can show them what causes the sound and

what lightning really looks like. If I can cure their curiosity by showing them what's out there, then I've achieved my goal."

"I also do it for the bragging rights," he said with a laugh. "If I can catch it on film, it's like I own it. Lightning strikes are like snow flakes, no two are the same, and each picture has a life of its own."

Since moving to Georgia from Texas a few years ago, he has monitored the storm tracks in the region and has scouted the best places to set up when a storm is approaching.

And according to Mr. Kevin Turner, a meteorologist technician with the 78th Operational Support Squadron here, Mr. Aspera shouldn't have had a problem finding storms to contend with. With cold fronts moving into the area, there are a lot of storms from February through May. And in the summers there are storms almost every afternoon.

Mr. Aspera said that even with an abundance of storms, the Georgia landscape makes it one of the hardest places for the chase.

"I've been storm chasing everywhere from California to Texas to New Mexico to Indiana," he said. "It's a lot better in those places because you can see the storms from a long way off. Here it's harder. With the trees and everything, the window of opportunity is much smaller."

But it hasn't slowed him down.

While most people think they're being sensible making the most of indoor activities during a storm, you can bet Mr. Aspera's good common sense is telling him the chase is on.



Indianapolis, Ind.

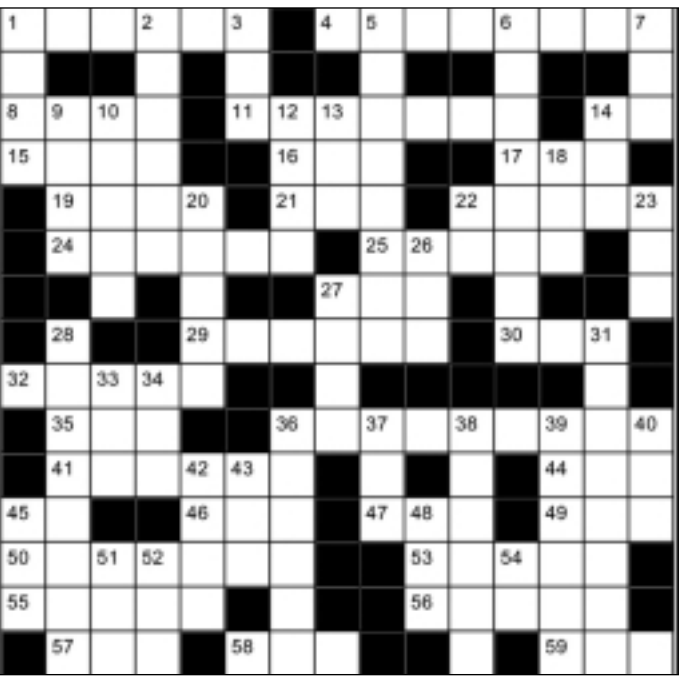


Las Cruces, N.M.



El Paso, Texas

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Hometown USAF (Vol. 4)

By 1st Lt. Tony Wickman
Alaskan Command Public Affairs

- ACROSS
1. Hawaii AFB home to 15th ABW

4. Texas AFB home to 47th FTW; a/c tail marking of XL

8. Minnesota state bird

11. Florida AFB home to 325th FW; a/c tail marking of TY

14. Security clearance (abbrev.)

15. Chemistry work stations

16. Shoe size

17. Near the ground

19. Amphibian

21. Neither's partner

22. Spain AB home to 496th ABS

24. Ford and Fonda

25. Ooze

27. Bother

29. Guardian of Giza

30. Bother

32. Apes

35. Animal 'down under' (slang)

36. Washington AFB home to 336th TG; a/c tail marking of FC

41. Oklahoma AFB home to 552nd ACW; a/c tail marking of OK

44. ____ Paulo, Brazil

45. Tail marking for 28th BW aircraft

46. Base person responsible for deployments (abbrev.)

47. Barbie's pal

49. Unknown (abbrev.)

50. Massachusetts AFB home to ESC

53. Harsh sleeping noise

55. Between meals item

56. Symbol

57. Driving offense (abbrev.)

58. Military pay stub

59. Military person on-call (abbrev.)
- DOWN
1. Utah AFB home to 388th FW; a/c tail marking of HL

2. Korea AB home to

8th FW; a/c tail marking of WP

3. Roll

5. Guam AB home to 36th ABW/13th AF

6. New Mexico AFB home to 49th FW; a/c tail marking of HO

7. Navy equivalent to AFB

9. Statement given during enlistment/commissioning

10. Woodwinds

12. Japense monies

13. Later revival

14. Even number

18. Mining goal

20. Put clothes on

22. State home to 127th WG at Selfridge ANGB

23. Government org. controlling satellites

26. 70 in olden days

27. Elvis song " ____ Las Vegas"

28. New Mexico AFB home to 150th FW; a/c tail marking of NM

31. AF Auxiliary Field in Arizona

33. Former Kenyan president Daniel ____

34. Age

36. Edith Wharton novel

Ethan ____

37. Annoy

38. New Mexico AFB home to 27th FW; a/c tail marking of CC

39. France AB home to 16th EOG

40. U.S. military forces headquarters (abbrev.)

42. Indented part of a bottle

43. Tokyo formerly

45. Questions?

48. Founding of a company (abbrev.)

51. Arizona school in Flagstaff (abbrev.)

52. Movie genre ____-Fi

54. Tail marking for a/c assigned to 138th FW

For puzzle solution, see March 5 edition of the Rev-Up

Puzzle solution for Feb. 20



LEAVE/TRANSFER

The following people have been approved as participants in the leave transfer program.

Ms. Joy A. Brown, WRALC/LSEEV. Point of contact is Mr. Jim Botkin at 926-2994.

Mr. George E. King II, WRALC/LSEEW. Point of contact is Ms. Linda Matlock at 926-5948.

Employee-relations specialists at 926-5307 or 926-5802 have information and instructions concerning requests to receive or donate annual leave. To have an approved leave recipient printed in the Rev-Up, directorates should send information to Angela Trunzo by e-mail at angela.trunzo@robins.af.mil. Submissions run for two weeks.

Planner

Tuskegee Airmen to relive history at museum Saturday

In celebration of Black History Month, the Museum of Aviation will host several Tuskegee Airmen at a forum in the Vistascope Theater at 11 a.m. Saturday.

The Tuskegee Institute was a place where dreams were realized, skin color was put aside, and men were made into pilots. Retired Col. Chuck Dryden, Hiram Little, Roy Elie and others will participate in the free forum, The Tuskegee Experience. Following the session, there will be a short documentary on the Tuskegee Institute.

Tours of the Museum’s America’s Black Eagles: The Tuskegee Airmen Exhibit, in Hangar One, will be given immediately following the event.

The exhibit tells the story of America’s Black Eagles through artifacts, memorabilia and photos depicting pilots, navigators, mechanics and nurses in training and in combat.

Flying 200 escort missions for B-17 and B-24 bombers, the Tuskegee Airmen never lost a bomber to enemy aircraft. During 15,000 sorties, they destroyed 111 enemy aircraft in aerial combat and 150 on the ground.

Sixty-six were killed, and 32 were captured. The exhibit highlights many of Georgia’s own, including Freddie Hutchins from Donaldsonville, Henry Perry from Thomasville, John Morgan from Cartersville and author Chuck Dryden from Marietta.

SERVICES BRIEFS

Customer Feedback Survey 926-5492

The annual Air Force Customer Feedback Survey has been sent randomly to individuals throughout Robins. The survey is used to measure customer satisfaction, quality of service, quality of facilities, quality of equipment and materials, value for price paid, and an overall assessment of at least 20 of the division’s major programs. This survey is easy to complete, has a self-addressed envelope and requires no postage. Customers who take the time to answer the survey provide input that will have a major impact on future Services programs. The survey data is presented in a software program and by using it, managers are able to enhance programs, improve service, and make optimal use of their resources to benefit Services customers. For more information, call Ms. Linda Hinkle, Services Marketing director, at 926-5492.

Child Development Centers East and West

Read Across America with Dr. Seuss March 1 - 5 at both centers.

Civilian Recreation

Watch the movie “Top Gun” in the Smith Community Center ballroom today at 7 p.m. Moviegoers are invited to bring lawn chairs and blankets to this free event. Concessions will be on

sale. Youths 16 and younger must be accompanied by a parent.

Tennis players are invited to play at their own level in the singles and doubles spring tennis leagues, which begin April 5. Open to anyone 16 years and older in the Robins community, including active duty, retired, reserve military, DoD civilians, contractors and immediate family members who register by March 31. Cost is \$10 per person.

Family Child Care

Are you a spouse of an active/retired military member who enjoys working with young children? Start a new career as a family child care provider by attending training March 5, 8 and 9 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Family Child Care office on the second floor of Smith Community Center.

Annual training for Family Child Care providers in fire safety, child abuse awareness, health and sanitation, and positive guidance will be held 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. March 20 in the FCC office on the second floor of the community center.

Information, Tickets and Travel

Explore and expand your horizons during ITT’s Travel Show March 10 from 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. in the Smith Community Center ballroom.

BHOC 5K Health Fun Walk/Run



Submitted photo

More than 125 participants from 15 organizations took part in the 5K Health Fun Run/Walk, sponsored by the Black Heritage Observance Health Committee, Feb. 6. Each organization entered a 5-member team to compete for T-shirts, water bottles, certificates and bragging rights to the best fit organization. The Center Contracting Directorate team braved the elements to grab first place in 23:21 minutes. The team members were Dave Tenenbaum, Steve Bury, Nick Haas, Theodore Rivera and Mark Dillinger. Second and third place winners were 78th Communications Squadron, 25:28 minutes, and 78th Civil Engineering, 27:32 minutes. Special recognition goes to Kris Krueger from LFE who crossed the finish line first, but without any team members, in 21.2 minutes. Pictured in the photograph with the winners is Ms. Brenda Frazier/PKO, assistant chair for the Health Committee.

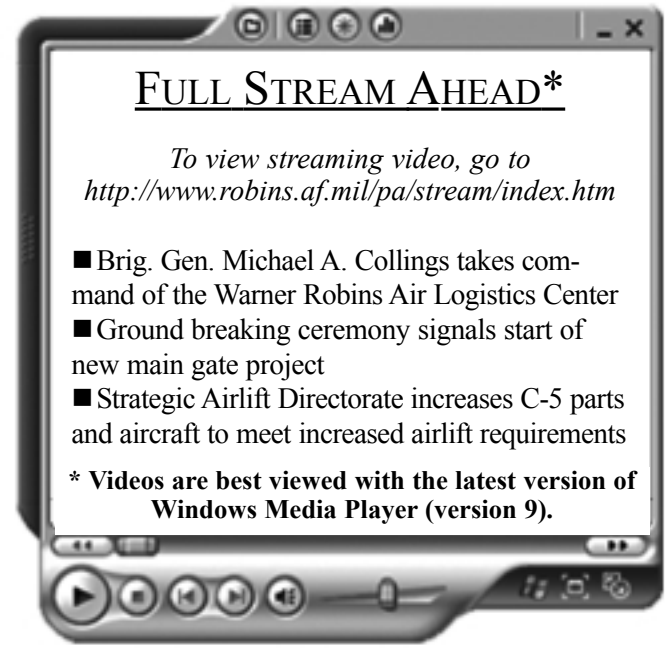
Get away to Las Vegas May 17 - 20. Price per person, to include airfare and hotel accommodations, are single \$704, double \$580.50, triple \$545.35 and quad \$535.75. A \$100 nonrefundable deposit is due at time of reservation. Balance due by March 12. For more information, call ITT at 926-2945.

Skills Development Center

Clip the customer appreciation days coupon in March Edge magazine to receive two free hours of shop time at the wood shop.

The skills development center will hold monthly classes in stepping stone Wednesday from noon - 2 p.m., cost is \$12.50; acrylic painting Tuesday, 9, 23 and 30 from 10 a.m. - noon, cost is \$12.50; decorative stamping March 11 and 25 from 6 - 8 p.m., cost is \$12.50; drawing Monday, March 8, 22 and 29 from 10 - 11:30 a.m., cost is \$10; watercolor Monday, March 8, 22 and 29 from noon - 2 p.m., cost is \$10; cross stitch Tuesday, March 9, 23 and 30 from 1 - 3 p.m., cost is \$12.50; oil painting Thursday, March 11 and 25 from 10 a.m. - noon, cost is \$12.50; pen and ink Tuesday, March 9, 23 and 30 from 1 - 2 p.m., cost is \$7; kids painting March 10 from 6 - 7:30 p.m., cost is \$5. Registration and payment is required for all classes. Class space is limited. All classes are subject to change and don’t include supply and equipment costs.

STREAMING VIDEO



ROBINS REPORT

News from around the base –Watson and Cox Channel 15
Friday – 8 p.m. ■**Sunday** – 1:30 p.m. ■**Monday** – noon

CHAPEL SERVICES

Catholic Masses are celebrated at the chapel each Saturday at 5:30 p.m., Sunday at 9:30 a.m., and on Holy Days of Obligation at noon and 5 p.m. and Monday through Friday at noon. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is on Saturday from 4:30-5:15 p.m.

Protestant General Services take place every Sunday at 11 a.m. This service

includes some traditional and contemporary worship styles in music and in format.

Protestant Inspirational Services take place every Sunday at 8 a.m.

Protestant Contemporary Services take place 11 a.m. each Sunday at the Base Theater. This service is very informal, with a praise team assisting in singing and includes both traditional and contemporary

styles of music and worship.

Jewish service time is each Friday at 6:15 p.m. at the Macon synagogue.

Islamic Friday Prayer (Jumuah) is Fridays at 2 p.m. in the chapel annex Rooms 1 and 2.

The chapel helps with spiritual needs that arise. For further information, call the chapel at 926-2821.

MOVIE SCHEDULE

Friday
7:30 p.m. – Along Came Polly – Ben Stiller and Jennifer Aniston
Reuben’s best-laid plans for life and love careen wildly off track, but an encounter with a childhood friend shoots him into a whirlwind of living in the moment.
Rated PG-13 (sexual content, language, crude humor and some drug references) 90 minutes



Saturday
2 and 7:30 p.m. – Free pre-screening – Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson
Tickets are available at any AAFES outlet today. Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis.
“Starsky and Hutch” follows a pair of undercover cops, focusing on how the two met and teamed up on their first big case.
Rated PG-13 (drug content, sexual situations, partial nudity, language and some violence)

Sunday
2 p.m. – Big Fish – Ewan McGregor and Albert Finney
Edward is a braggart who exaggerates his exploits and experiences. His estranged son has come home to take care of his dying dad and separate fact from fiction.
Rated PG-13 (a fight scene, some images of nudity and a suggestive reference) 110 minutes

Wounded war bird goes home

C-5 Production Branch, 653rd CLSS work together to get C-5 back into airlift rotation

By Ms. Lisa Mathews
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Workers in the C-5 Production Branch are feeling a little closer to the war fighter now that they’ve completed battle damage repair on the C-5 hit by a missile shortly after takeoff in Iraq Jan. 8. The aircraft left Robins Monday - two days ahead of schedule.

The aircraft, retrieved from Baghdad by a team from the 653rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron’s, returned to Robins Jan. 21.

Prior to its return, the 653rd CLSS group made temporary repairs to the plane so it could be flown. Once at Robins, the C-5 Production Branch took over and is made permanent repairs to return the aircraft to Air Mobility Command so it could go back into the airlift rotation.

According to Mr. Al Hainse, C-5 production manager, the work on the battle damaged aircraft didn’t interrupt normally scheduled work. “Some of the guys from the 653rd CLSS who went over there and actually got the plane helped work the damage,” he said. “It was civil service and active duty working side by side to not only to get this aircraft back to AMC on time, but two days early.”

Ms. Gail Turner, a C-5 scheduler, said initially evaluations were needed to determine the extent of damage and what repair work would be accomplished. Weather was a factor at first because the aircraft was repaired on the ramp and not in a hangar.

Mr. David Johnson, a C-5

“It was civil service and active duty working side by side to not only get this aircraft back to AMC on time, but two days early.”

Mr. Al Hainse
C-5 production manager



U.S. Air Force photos by Ms. Sue Sapp
Top, the battle damaged C-5 retrieved from Baghdad receives permanent repairs on Robins fight line recently. Above, Mr. Wayne Selph, sheet metal mechanic, shows the damage done to the torque box panel.

planner, said the workers were enthusiastic about the aircraft. “Working on something that was actually in battle brought out their pride,” he said. “They were interested in getting it back to the war fight-

er as soon as possible.” Mr. Johnson added that, with the large troop rotation planned in the near future, it was important to have the plane completed and back to AMC as soon as possible.

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theater
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Paintball offers thrill seekers the ultimate game of strategy

By Mr. Geoff Janes
geoff.janes@robins.af.mil

Surprisingly, the folks who play paintball seriously can get a little miffed when others refer to the game as a violent sport.

According to long-time player Scott Covode, the game isn't about glorifying violence at all. It's a game of strategy, hand-eye coordination and stealth.

"It's not about 'killing' people, and it's not about violence," he said of the sport. "It's an extreme sport for sure, but it's more like playing dodge ball. And, rather than using a rubber ball, we use paintball guns - called markers - and paint filled balls to tag people out. Sure they're projectiles, but it's about skill - not firepower. We're not hunting out there."

Josh Norman, like Covode, has been getting into the thick of things for quite some time. His father bought him and his brother their first markers when Norman was 13.

"I have been playing for roughly eight years," he said. "It's now a family tradition. My father still plays even though he has two replaced hips. I got into paintball through my friends and family. I am from a small town and paintball is probably the most exciting thing you can do for fun."

But whether you're from a small town, the suburbs or the city, when it comes to getting into the sport, it really just comes down to the desire to have a good time.

"Your average paintballer is social," Norman said. "You never know who will be on your team, but they become your friend instantly when you come under fire."

He went on to describe those who are drawn to the sport as exhibiting good sportsmanship, humility, leadership skills and the ability to



U.S. Air Force photo by Ms. Rachel Jordan

Above, about 80 people made the drive to attend and participate in the Robins Air Force Base tournament in Dry Branch, Ga., Saturday. Services is looking to expand its on base paintball program. Below, this paintball marker set costs around \$150. But basic markers can cost much less.

How to get involved

The Robins Paintball Club has grown to 80 members who play every week-end both on and off base. All notifications are sent by e-mail, and games range from speedball to woods to urban assault scenarios. For more information, contact Senior Airman Joshua Norman at 926-3350.



U.S. Air Force photo by Ms. Sue Sapp

a mistake can take you out of the game. You have to be aware of your surroundings; you take fire from all directions. The bottom-line is that paintball players have no true description. Male or female, young or old, anyone who tries it loves it."

Norman said the most important skill to have when

down on the chance of injury.

"I have seen players start as young as 8 with their fathers," he said. "With the right protective gear and guidance, any individual can play paintball safely and have fun. Paintball is only dangerous if you don't follow proper safety precautions and guidelines. The worst case scenario is a quarter sized welt or bruise, which normally goes away in a few days. Paintball was rated the safest extreme sport this year because it has lower incidents of injury than any other extreme sports."

Covode agreed. "Paintball is a sport," he said. "It builds teamwork, responsibility and integrity. It really is no different than soccer, baseball or football.

According to Robert Willis

What it costs

Interested in playing? A basic starter package costs about \$100, including a paintball marker, goggles and a CO2 tank. Paintballs are extra. If you're interested in giving it a go, but aren't ready to invest the money, equipment can be rented, and the standard fee is normally around \$5 to \$10 including equipment and all-day air. For a group outing Services Outdoor Recreation will rent markers, goggles, air and paintballs for \$15 per person for minimum groups of six. Ranges are available on weekends, and anyone interested in becoming a referee or volunteering to maintain equipment should contact Outdoor Recreation at 926-4001.

with Services Outdoor Recreation Center, Services is trying to increase interest in the base program that began four years ago.

"We're really working hard to increase the program," he said. "We're looking for new referees and improving the two fields we have. Right now, we've got a speed ball course, which is an open field with barriers and we also have a 2-acre wooded course - the speedball course needs the most work."

Even so, Services has everything people need to get a game going. They currently have 31 Tipman markers, masks, tanks, and the fields for play.

"The program has grown every year," Willis said. "We will be able to do a lot more once we get a bigger staff, and they get up to speed."

Editor's note: Norman was one of about 80 people who made the drive to attend and participate in the Robins Air Force Base tournament in Dry Branch, Ga., Saturday. Covode was one of seven who officiated.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Bowling Center

■ All bowlers play for \$1.75 a game. If their birthday is Sunday, they bowl three games for free.

■ All active duty military who bowl two games during open play will receive one game free March fourth - the only day of the year that gives a command.

Fitness Center

A St. Patrick's Day run will be held March 17 at 11 a.m. in front of the Health and Wellness Center.

Golf Course

■ A spring break junior golf clinic will be held March 16 - 18. Cost is

\$40, and clinic is limited to first 15 paid juniors in each class. Times are 9 - 11 a.m. for 7 - to 11 - year - old boys; noon - 2 p.m. for 12 - 15 - year - old boys; and 3 - 5 p.m. for 9 - 17 - year - old girls. For more information, call the golf course.

■ Link Up 2 Golf offers participants over \$300 in savings. Cost per person is \$99 and includes eight hours of instruction, free-range punch cards and three golfing experiences. Register now for March 22 class. For details, call 926-4103.

ITT

NASCAR tickets are on sale at ITT for the Inaugural 200 mile truck race

March 13 and the Golden Corral 500 NASCAR Nextel Cup Series race March 14 at the Atlanta Motor Speedway. Cost is \$40 per person for both races.

Youth Center

■ Robins Youth Center will be conducting baseball, softball, T-ball and micro T-ball registrations through Saturday.

■ Registration for Operation Night Hoops will be held Monday through Friday from 3 - 6 p.m. and Saturdays 1 - 6 p.m. March 13 - 20 at the Youth Center. Cost is \$10 per player with seven players per team. Season starts March 26 for eight weeks.

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HONOR ROLL

The following people received awards during the Engineering and Technical Management Awards banquet Wednesday:

2nd Lt. Katherine I. Lysaght, LS, systems engineer, Combat Electronic Systems Directorate, Junior Military Engineer Award

Mr. Peter J. Christiansen, LB, C-130 aircraft structural integrity program manager, C-130 Systems Program Office, Junior Engineer Award

Maj. Kevin W. Gilbert, LS, deputy chief, Systems Engineering Division, Combat Electronic Systems Directorate, Mid-Career Military Award

Mr. Ronald C. Hollingshead, LS, Global Positioning System user equipment system engineer, Combat Electronic Systems Directorate, Mid-Career Award

Mr. Wayne R. Williams, LS, lead electronics engineer, Combat Electronic Systems Engineer, Senior Engineer Award

Mr. John W. Louth, LS, senior electronics engineer, Combat Electronics Systems Directorate, Career Achievement Award

The Warner Robins Flight Test Office Team, led by **Maj. Stephen Brooks**, EN-2, chief, Flight Testing Division, Engineering Directorate, and team members **Maj. Karl J. Biermacher**, **2nd Lt. Ryan J. Davidson**, **Maj. Jeffry E. Gates**, **Mr. Patrick C. Jones**, **Capt. Jeffrey J. Kotz**, **Ms. Kimberly J. Kovalick**, **1st Lt. Andrew C. Meudt**, **Mr. William M. Schleicher**, and **1st Lt. Gregory M. Zelinski**, Technical Management Team award

Ms. Lori Bloodworth, MA, lead, Partnerships and Business Development,

Software Engineering Division, Directorate of Maintenance, Technical Management Award

Mr. Frank G. Graham, LS, electronics technician, Combat Electronics Systems Directorate, Engineering Technician Award

Capt. Kristopher Kruger, LF, lead reliability and maintainability engineering, F-15 Systems Program Office, Individual Mobilization Augmentee Award

Mr. Sammy E. Dent, MA, financial management team lead, Software Engineering Division, Directorate of Maintenance, Support Award

Mr. Stephen Strawn, LS, lead electronics engineer, Combat Electronic Systems Directorate, General James Ferguson Engineering Award

The B-1B Defensive Systems Engineering Team, LS, Combat Electronic Systems Directorate, led by **Mr. Martin P. Markalonis** and team members **Mr. Jackie R. Ringley**, **Mr. Christopher J. Wharton**, **Mr. Roy A. Arnold**, **Mr. Daniel J. Conkerton**, **Ms. Maica D Echols**, **Mr. John D. Evertt Jr.**, **Mr. Brian D. Gaffney**, **Mr. Amit R. Gambhir**, **Mr. Matthew P. Haslaurer**, **Mr. George T. Hlavaty**, **Mr. Lawrence W. Kakritz**, **Mr. David A. McCrory**, **Mr. Richard E. McGregor**, **Ms. Paulette M. Polk**, **Mr. Gerald A. Prats**, **Ms. Donna A. Rivers**, **Ms. Cynthia P. Rump**, **Mr. David L. Sorrell**, **Mr. Alphonso Thomas**, and **Mr. David M. Zook**, General Barnard P. Randolph Engineering Team Award

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Safety first



U.S. Air Force photo by Ms. Sue Sapp
Brig. Gen. Mike Collings, Center commander, presents the 2003 Commanders Trophy for Excellence in Safety to Master Sgt. Elijah Waring, 653rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron unit safety manager, and Lt. Col. Paul Wood, 653rd CLSS commander, Monday. The unit with the lowest on-job and off-job mishap record receives the annual award.

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